

Indiana. His praiseworthy efforts will be recognized at Purdue University Calumet's Commencement Exercise as he will be receiving an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Calvin Bellamy, a longtime resident of Northwest Indiana, has dedicated his life to public service. In 1964, Mr. Bellamy graduated from Indiana University and continued his education at the University of Michigan where he received his Juris Doctor cum laude and Order of the Coif in 1967. He has continued his scholarly work in law and has been nationally recognized for his writing on constitutional questions. Mr. Bellamy currently serves as the chairman and chief executive office of Bank Calumet, with which he began his affiliation in 1975.

While Calvin Bellamy has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work at the bank, he has always made an extra effort to give to the community. Some of the organizations for which he serves as the director of include: the Lake County Community Development Committee, the Northwest Indiana World Trade Council, and the Northwest Indiana Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Additionally, he has served as president and director of the Hammond Public Library, Lake Area United Way, and the Legal Aid Society of Greater Hammond. He has also been active with the Hammond Historical Society, the Lake County Bar Association, Northern Indiana Arts Association, and the Indiana Bankers Association.

Although his work and community service put extraordinary demands on his time, Calvin Bellamy has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family, especially his lovely wife, Cathy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Calvin Bellamy for his lifetime of dedication, service, and leadership in Northwest Indiana. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the significant contributions this prominent individual has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Mr. Calvin Bellamy.

93RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending a forum on "The Upsurge of Anti-Semitism in Russia" sponsored by the American Jewish Committee at its 93rd annual meeting. This forum was attended by several Members of Congress and provided a useful opportunity for representatives of the AJC and Members of Congress to exchange their thoughts on the rise of anti-Semitism in Russia and the response of Congress.

In this connection, I distributed a statement regarding the March 23 passage of H. Con. Res. 37, a resolution that condemned the anti-

Semitic statements made by certain members of the Russian State Duma, as well as commending fair-minded members of the Duma for their efforts to condemn such statements. This resolution passed the House of Representatives unanimously. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I was proud to have introduced this resolution in the House, along with every member of the Helsinki Commission. A companion resolution in the Senate, S. Con. Res. 19, has been introduced by Commission Co-chairman Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and Ranking Commissioner Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I submit this statement for the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure to meet with you today, at this 93rd annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee and the forum on "Confronting the New Upsurge of Anti-Semitism in Russia."

With the fall of the Soviet Union, many of the "hidden" ills of that society that had been "frozen" by a totalitarian regime devoted to superficial "order" re-emerged. One of these was open anti-Semitism. Freedom of the press has given rise to countless anti-Semitic publications and leaflets. As you know, two suspicious explosions took place in Moscow recently near the Maria Roshcha and Chorale synagogues. These are only the most recent instances of arson or suspected arson against these two synagogues. Other synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in the former Soviet Union and Russia have been hit as well.

In post-Soviet Russia, the residue of official anti-Semitic propaganda of the Soviet era—disguised by Moscow as "anti-Zionism"—was bound to find a certain reception among certain less-discriminating elements. These attitudes, freed from the constraints of the Iron Curtain and now aided by the Internet and an unrestrained press, and then reinforced and cross-pollinated by neo-Nazis and racists throughout the world. In their fervent anti-communism, some extreme nationalists have attempted to present a distorted picture of Jews as allies of communists destroying Russia during the Soviet period. In Russia today the communists blame Jews for being allies of capitalists destroying Russia. Finally, the economic malaise experienced in Russia has engendered hatred intolerance against not only Jews, but toward many ethnic minorities, especially the so-called "dark people" from the Caucasus.

It is deplorable when vandals and hate-mongers attempt to spread bigotry in any society, but we must admit that such unfortunate incidents do not take place only in Russia. And, I have yet to meet any member of the Russian Jewish community who wants to return to the Soviet period. But I—and I know I can speak for other Members of the House of Representatives—have been outraged by the antics and attitudes that have been exhibited by some members of the Russian Duma, especially in the ranks of the Communist Party.

In December of last year, Mr. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist Party member and chairman of the Duma security committee, stated that Yeltsin's "Jewish entourage" is responsible for alleged genocide against the

Russian people. Another Communist Party member, retired General Albert Makashov, speaking at public rallies, referred to "the Yids" and other "reformers and democrats" as responsible for Russia's problems and threatened to make up a list of targets and "send them to the other world."

Incidentally, I have seen films of Mr. Makashov's performance. It is quite sobering. I can only say, "Heaven help the Russian people and the world," if he and his ilk ever do triumph.

In fairness to the many conscientious Russians inside and outside of the government, these anti-Semitic statements were widely condemned in Russia. In response to the public outcry, both in Russia and abroad, Communist Party chairman Zyuganov explained that the Party had nothing against "Jews," just "Zionism." When fair-minded members of the Duma attempted to pass a resolution condemning Makashov's statement, it was voted down by the communist majority.

The U.S. Congress, though, has reacted much differently. On March 23 of this year, the House of Representatives passed unanimously, 421-0, House Concurrent Resolution 37, condemning anti-Semitic statements made by members of the Russian Duma and commending actions taken by fair-minded members of the Duma to censure the purveyors of anti-Semitism within their ranks. I was proud to have introduced this resolution in the House, along with every member of the Helsinki Commission as original co-sponsors. A companion resolution in the Senate, Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, has been introduced by Commission Co-Chairman Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Ranking Commissioner Senator Frank Lautenberg.

In addition, several members of the Helsinki Commission and I have written to Mr. Zyuganov to express our dismay at his role and the role of his party in tolerating anti-Semitism in a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In that letter, among other points, we urged Zyuganov to take every appropriate step to disassociate the Communist Party from racist and anti-Semitic positions and to reject individuals who hold those positions.

I would add that our Embassy and the State Department have performed commendably in expressing to Russian officials our deep concern about the rise of anti-Semitism in Russia.

I am informed by the State Department that in recent days at least, there have been no more anti-Semitic statements emanating from Duma members. However, as Elena Bonner remarked earlier this year at Helsinki Commission hearings, the parliamentary elections in December of this year will be an important indicator of Russia's direction for the future. Will Russia return to the democratic path of the early 1990s or will it turn backward in reaction? We hope that the lesson of ethnic intolerance, taken to its extreme conclusion now in the Balkans, should be clear.

In any event, let me assure you that as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the House International Relations Committee, I will use every appropriate opportunity to combat anti-Semitism and intolerance in Russia.